

Office of Sustainable Communities

Capacity Building for Sustainable Communities

Provides grants to improve regional and local planning efforts that integrate housing and transportation decisions, and increase the capacity to improve land use and zoning to support market investments that support sustainable communities.

Nature of Program: This program, part of a cross-agency collaboration between HUD, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), seeks to identify intermediary organizations that can provide support for communities engaged in planning efforts that support community involvement and integrate housing, land use, land cleanup and preparation for reuse, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments.

The program seeks to assemble a collection of capacity building service providers to work directly with the FY2010 and FY 2011 HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning and Community Challenge grant recipients, HUD Preferred Sustainability Status Communities, and EPA Sustainable Community Technical Assistance recipients and Brownfield Area Wide Planning grant recipients (collectively Sustainable Communities Grantees), and enable them to fulfill their anticipated outcomes. HUD and other Partnership agencies will work regularly with all selected intermediary service providers to maintain a coordinated and leveraged delivery approach that ensures the maximum benefit to local governments, regions, and planning entities and partners engaged in the prescribed activities.

The capacity building program also seeks to build a national coalition and leadership network of the Sustainable Communities Grantees. The purpose of the network is to facilitate the exchange of successful strategies, lessons learned, emerging tools and public engagement strategies, and approaches for avoiding or minimizing pitfalls. HUD will work with the selected intermediaries to develop a robust evaluation component for the network.

Applicant Eligibility: Nonprofits, local or state public agencies, nationally recognized and accredited universities or college, for-profit organizations (though they may not earn a profit above their costs and may not receive funds provided by the EPA), or a combination of entities in a Capacity Building Team.

Legal Authority: FY 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act, Division A, Title II; FY 2011 Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act (Public Law 112-10).

Administering Office: Director for the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, DC 20410.

Information Source: Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities.

On the Web:

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/sustainable_housing_communities/capacity-building

Current Status: Active, though no new money has been appropriated since FY2010.